

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION PM-05

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 OMB-01 IGA-02 NSC-05 SP-02

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3234

INFO SECDEF WASHDC //ISA(SA)DSAA-TC//

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DEP OF ARMY WASH DC//DAMO-SSA//

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER//ECJ4/7-SA//

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E.O. 116522: GDS

TAGS: MASS, YE

SUBJECT: FY 79 CPD

REF: SECSTATE 297352 (B) USCINCEUR EC J 4/7-SA20081,
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1. PARAS 2 THRU 5 BELOW REPRESENT OUR SUGGESTIONS
FOR UNCLASSIFIED CPD TEXT FOR FY 79 SECURITY ASSISTANCE
PROGRAM FOR YEMEN ARAB REPUBLIC.

2. JUSTIFICATION OF PROGRAM. THE YEMEN ARAB REPUBLIC IS
IMPORTANT IN TERMS OF US INTERESTS PRIMARILY BECAUSE OF ITS
GEOGRAPHIC POSITION BETWEEN SAUDI ARABIA, IN WHICH
WE HAVE MAJOR INTERESTS, AND THE POPPLES'S
DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF YEMEN (PDRY), A RADICAL
MARXIST STATE WITH EXTENSIVE TIES TO THE COMMUNIST
WORLD. THE YAR'S STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE ALSO DERIVES FROM
ITS POSITION ON THE RED SEA AND ITS PROXIMITY
TO THE HORN OF AFRIC WHICH IS CURRENTLY IN
CONSIDERABLE FERMENT AS A RESULT OF MASSIVE SOVIET ARMS
SHIPMENTS TO LOCAL RADICAL REGIMES.

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3. IN A COUNTRY LIKE THE YAR, WHICH WAS BADLY DIVIDED
IN THE SIXTIES BY CIVIL WAR, THE ARMY IS A KEY FACTOR
IN THE STABILITY OF THE REPUBLIC AND ITS ABILITY TO
EXTEND SERVICES AND PUSH DEVELOPMENT IN A VERY BACKWARD
LAND. THE KEY ROLE OF THE ARMY WAS ILLUSTRATED IN THE
PEACEFUL TRANSITION TO A NEW GOVERNEMENT AFTER THE STILL

UNEXPLAINED ASSASSINATION OF YAR PRESIDENT HAMDI
IN OCTOBER 1977.

4. MODERNIZATION MOVED INTO MODERATE COURSES IN THE SEVENTIES,
THE YAR HAS MOVED AWAY FROM ITS ERSTWHILE DEPENDENCE ON THE SOVIETS.
TO ENCOURAGE AND ASSIST THIS PROCESS, AND IN A NOTE-
WORTHY EXAMPLE OF REGIONAL AND TRILATERAL SECURITY
COOPERATION, THE YAR IS PROCURING US MILITARY HARDWARE
UNDER A CAREFULLY DESIGNED MULTI-YEAR MILITARY MODERNIZATION
PLAN FINANCED BY SAUDI ARABIA.

5. DESCRIPTION OF PROGRAM: THE PROPOSED SECURITY
ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FOR THE YAR IN FY 1979 WILL CONSIST
OF GRANT INTERNATIONAL MILITARY EDUCATION AND TRAINING
(IMET). IN ADDITION, THE YAR MAY REQUEST THE PURCHASE
FOR CASH OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT AND TRAINING.
A. IMET: GRANT TRAINING IN THE UNITED STATES IS
PROPOSED TO CONTINUE FOR SELECTED YEMENI MILITARY
PERSONNEL AT A COST OF \$600,000 FOR FY 1979. THE
CURRENT PROGRAM WAS INITIATED IN FY 1976 TO ASSIST IN
THE IMPLEMENTATION OF AN ARMED FORCES MODERNIZATION PLAN
WHICH WOULD INVOLVE A SHIFT FROM SOVIET TO US WEAPONS
AND ORGANIZATION. 29 YEMENI MILITARY OFFICERS ARE
PROGRAMMED FOR FORMALIZED TRAINING AT CONSUS-BASED
MILITARY SERVICE SCHOOLS. TRAINED CADRE IS YEMEN'S
GREATEST NEED. UNDER PROFESSIONAL AND GENERAL
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MILITARY EDUCATION, WE SEEK TO DEVELOP AN INITIAL
CADRE OF YAR OFFICERS TRAINED AT BASIC AND ADVANCED
LEVELS OF US ARMS AND SERVICES, AND IN US METHODS OF
INSTRUCTION. THIS CADRE WILL BE EXPECTED TO TAKE THE
LEAD IN ACHIEVING A SELF-SUFFICIENT TRAINING CAPABILITY
FOR BOTH YAR OFFICER AND ENLISTED PERSONNEL IN THE
SPECIALITIES OF INFANTRY, ARTILLERY, ORDNANCE,
QUARTERMASTER, TRANSPORTATION AND MAINTENANCE. A
SPECIAL TRAINING REQUIREMENT OF IMMEDIATE URGENCY IS
THE ESTABLISHMENT OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE TRAINING
FOR THE YAR ARMY, WHICH HAS VIRTUALLY NO ENGLISH
LINGUISTS.

B. FMS: SINCE THE CONTRACTS WERE SIGNED IN JUNE
1979 BY THE YAR AND THE FINANCIER SAUDI ARABIA, WE HAVE
UNDERTAKEN TO SELL APPROXIMATELY \$150 MILLION WORTH
OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT DURING THE FIRST 5-YEAR INCREMENT
OF THE MODERNIZATION PLAN. EMPHASIS HAS BEEN PLACED ON
GROUND FORCES, TO INCLUDE INFANTRY AND ARTILLERY
WEAPONS, ENGINEERING EQUIPMENT, AND WHEELED VEHICLES
(JEEPS, TRUCKS AND AMBULANCES). SOME ADDITIONAL
CONTRACTS, INCLUDING FIGHTER AIRCRAFT ARE UNDER
CONSIDERATION. IF THEY MATERIALIZE, TOTAL S ACQUISITIONS

(INCLUDING SOME DIRECT TRANSFERS FROM SAUDI ARABIA)
COULD AMOUNT TO APPROXIMATELY \$325 MILLION UNDER THE
FIRST 5-YEAR PHASE.

6. ADP DATA UPDATING THE PROPOSED FY 1979 IMETP FOR
YEMEN WAS FORWARDED TO APPROPRAITE MILITARY SERVICE DEPARTMENT
ACTION AGENCY VIA REF C ABOVE.
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